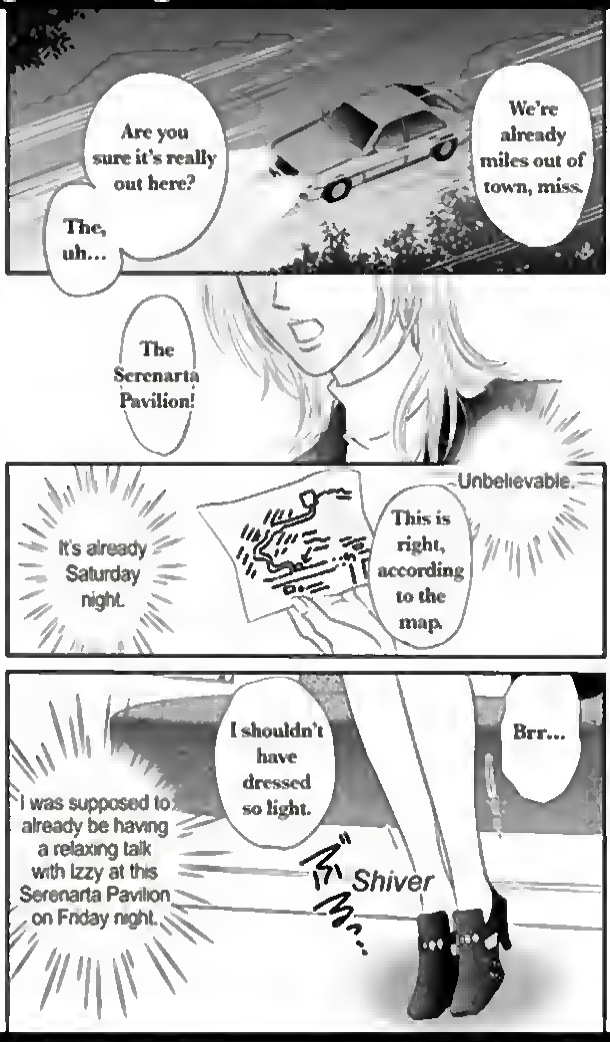
Pure

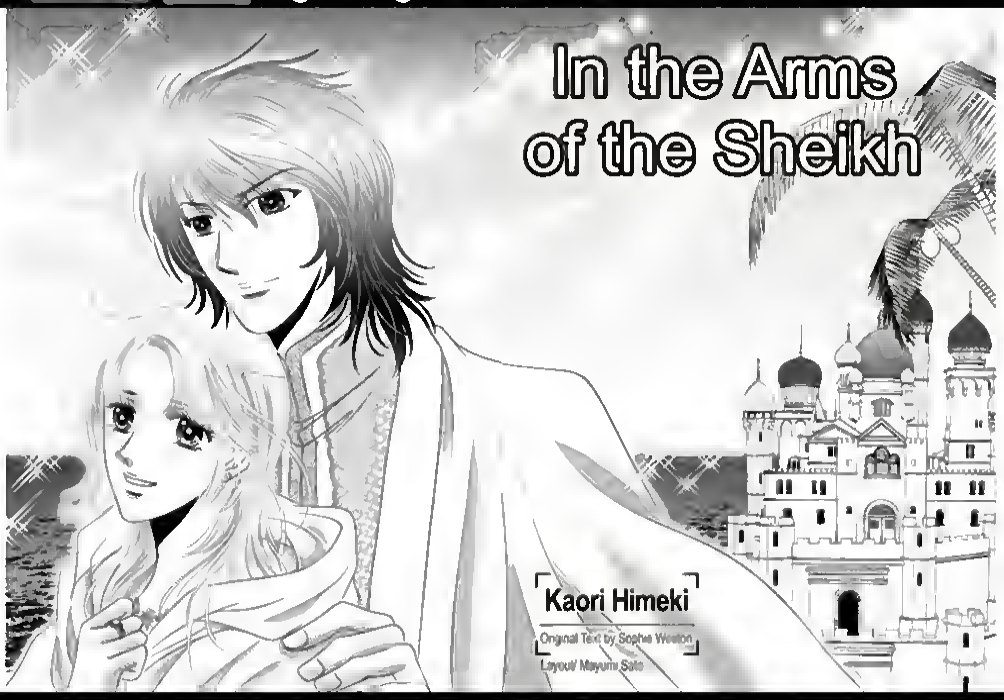
HARLEQUIN

In the Arms of the Sheikh

Original Text by Sophie Weston

Kaori Himeki

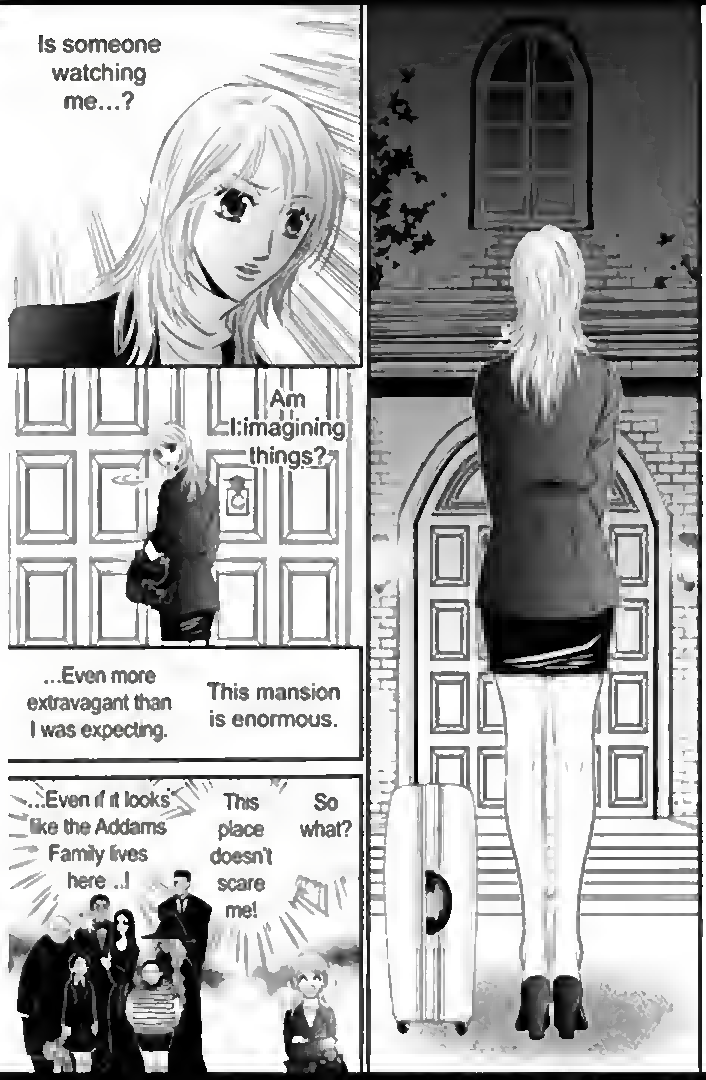

We're already miles out of town, miss.
Are you sure it's really out here?
The, uh...
The Serenarta Pavilion!
Unbelievable.
This is right, according to the map.
It's already Saturday night.
I was supposed to already be having a relaxing talk with Izzy at this Serenarta Pavilion on Friday night.
I shouldn't have dressed so light.
Brr...
Shiver


In the Arms of the Sheikh
Kaori Himeki
Original Text by Sophie Weston
Layout/ Mayumi Sato

It's true that bad luck comes in threes.
It's the engagement party of my best friend, Isabel Dia...
...and I'm late by an entire day!
You're finally settling down with that spoiled adventurer, Dominic, after all?
I'm so happy for you, Izzy!
I'm getting married, Natasha!

I'll be there no matter what. It's you, after all.
I know you're busy, but...
Anyway... I want you to be there at our engagement party.
That's right! You know how Dom is.
If he's the friend of an aristocrat like Dom, he must be pretty rich.
He's letting us use it.
It's going to be at the house of Dom's friend.
...Oh
Serenarta Pavilion
Private Property
No Trespassing
No trespassing, eh?
Finally!
How inviting.

.....
Still, Izzy...
Why didn't you tell me you'd rented a haunted house?
ブロロロロ...
Vroom


Is someone watching me...?
Am I imagining things?
This mansion is enormous.
...Even more extravagant than I was expecting.
So what?
This place doesn't scare me!
...Even if it looks like the Addams Family lives here ..!

Knock Knock
This has to be the place.
That's strange.
Turn
No... I'm not imagining it.
I can't hear anyone inside.
Someone *is* watching me!
So why do I feel so anxious?

Rustle
カサッ
Who's there?

Smile
Good evening!
And you are?
Dangerous?
That's in the past.
I can't let that nightmare control me forever!
This man... He could be a pro.
Shiver
Cautious and calm as a panther. Dangerous.

Lumbert?
My name is Natasha Lumbert.
Miss Dia invited me to come here.
I'm already late, so I'm in a hurry.
Um…
Would you mind letting me in?
A client in New York demanded an unscheduled meeting, all right?
Why don't you just let me in?
Why are you late?
Jerk!
…late for the party that started last night?
You mean…

Then, the first flight the next morning was delayed by hail...
The red-eye was full
Oh, Izzy must be so worried.
I couldn't upset them by refusing
So I had to cancel my flight to England
...but they wouldn't let me leave without going to dinner!
I was supposed to be finished presenting by evening...
You must be joking!
Can I see some identification?
Snatch!
Fine. I'll just call Izzy myself.
I don't have to put up with this treatment.

Thud
Toss
Aiiie! My phone!
Hmm...
No explosion.
.....
There's no reason to believe you're not a terrorist.
Explosion...?
You think I'm some kind of terrorist?
What do you think you're...

What did you call me?
Not to fight with some butler with all the charm of Frankenstein!
I came here for my friend!
That's enough! No one is this overcautionus!
Urk
And Mr. Overzealous Butler? Get my luggage, would you?
Grooôaan
Now, then. Show me to where Izzy is.
Got him!
Follow me!
The party is in the garden.

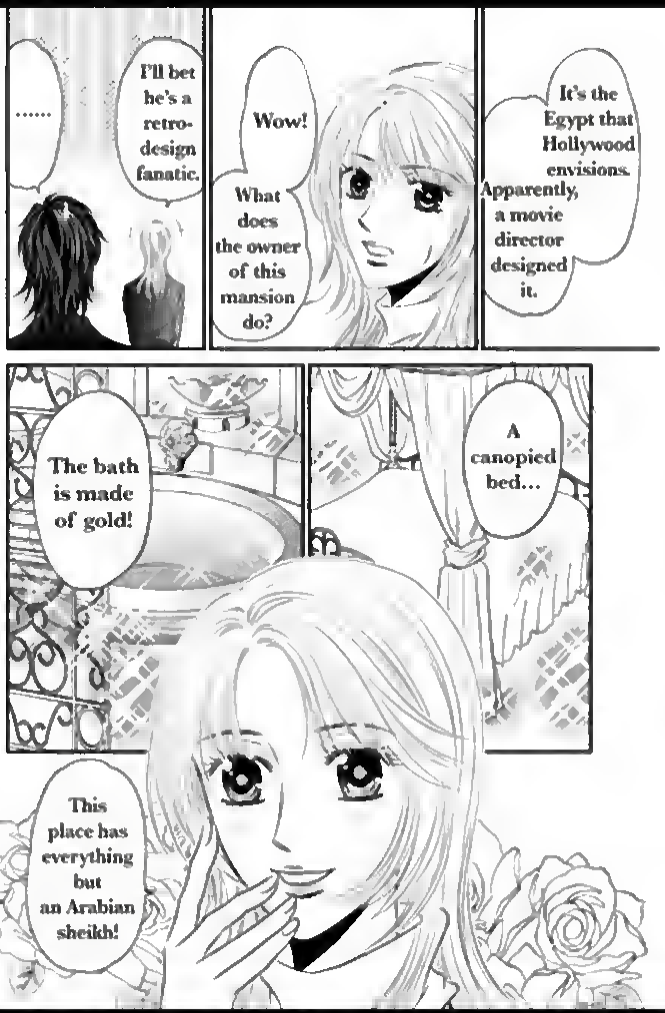
Rabble
Rabble
I'm so sorry I was late.
I've been waiting for you!
I knew you would come!
Natasha!

No wonder!
My battery must be dead.
Oh, no!
Dear!
Oh,
...but you never picked up!
I've been calling you...
Really?
I thought something might have happened...
I was worried. You didn't call or anything.
What?
The party preparations must have gotten to her
She's so frantic.
It's so cold out here.
Anyway, could I borrow something to wear?
Shiver
Don't worry about it.
I'm sorry, Natasha.
You can stay here.
No. I'll show her inside.
Let me take you inside, where it's warm.
You can wear any of my coats or sweaters!
Oh, where are my manners?

There are plenty of extra clothes right this way.
And I must still carry your luggage.
Oh... Kajim.
I see you've learned your place.
I'd actually rather not be alone with the likes of him...
The hostess of the party can't just disappear.
It's all right. I'll let him show me.
Tap
Tap

Snag
My heel is stuck!
Ah!
Fine, then.
I'll just come back to look for them when it's light, along with my phone.
He keeps walking so fast! Just like before
Tap Tap
I can't keep up on this stone pavement in high heels!
Creak
Here we are.
After you.

Oh, my...!
An Arabian design?
What room is this?
This is the Egyptian Room.
Miss Dia insisted that this room be yours.


.....
I'll bet he's a retro-design fanatic.
Wow!
What does the owner of this mansion do?
It's the Egypt that Hollywood envisions. Apparently, a movie director designed it.
The bath is made of gold!
A canopied bed...
This place has everything but an Arabian sheikh!

Swish
That could also be arranged.
He's actually handsome, in an exotic sort of way.
He also has a faint foreign accent.
Hmm.
Very funny.
Smile
Now that he's standing next to me, I see how tall he is.

You're bleeding!
What happened to your shoes?
Thanks to him, I've scraped my heels raw!
Not that I'll let him get away with being so rude, just because of that.
Hmph!
Aah!
It's not bad.
I took them off to keep up with you on the stone pavement!
Let me see!
Why don't you just leave?
What?

I have a first-aid kit in my bag, so I'll just…
In your bag?
I'll call a doctor, just in case.
Nothing seems to be broken.
That's not necessary
Unbelievable! Who just opens a woman's private things?
Wait!
Stop, please! You can't…
Very, very cute
とってもかわいい
Slippers
スリッパ
にゃんこ
Kitty cat

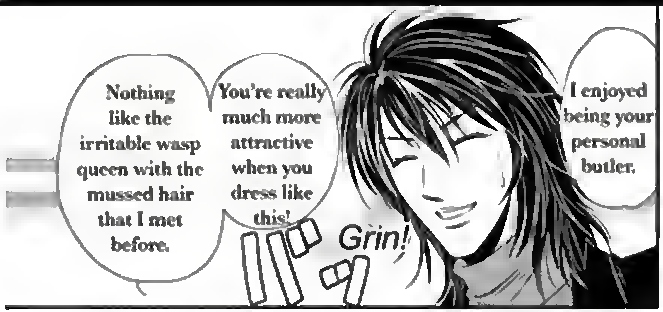
Thank you!
I can handle the rest myself!
Now, would you please leave?
I found it
He's trying to keep from laughing.
They're just so healing!
Why did I bring those?
I'm so stupid!
Sigh
Click
My hair ...Ugh is a mess from the wind.
I can't believe how terrible I look.

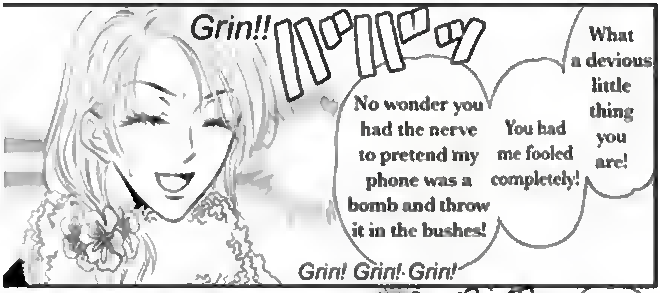
You're here to dress up, be a party guest and celebrate Izzy's engegement.
This is no time to be letting some foreign charmer mess with you.
Calm down, Netasha Lumbert
This isn't like you.
Rabble
Rabble
If she weren't the real thing, she could pass for an assassin.
I was showing Isabel's guest to her suite.
Hi, Dominic.
Where have you been, Kajim?
Ha Ha Ha Ha
Miss Personality?
I guess you've had it out with Miss Personality already, then?

She's actually a professional market investigator
The CEO of Lumbert Research, Incorporated.
She's got a beautiful face with eyes like ice, and is always rough on men.
Especially with me, because I've gone and stolen her best friend.
Tap
Tap
Tap

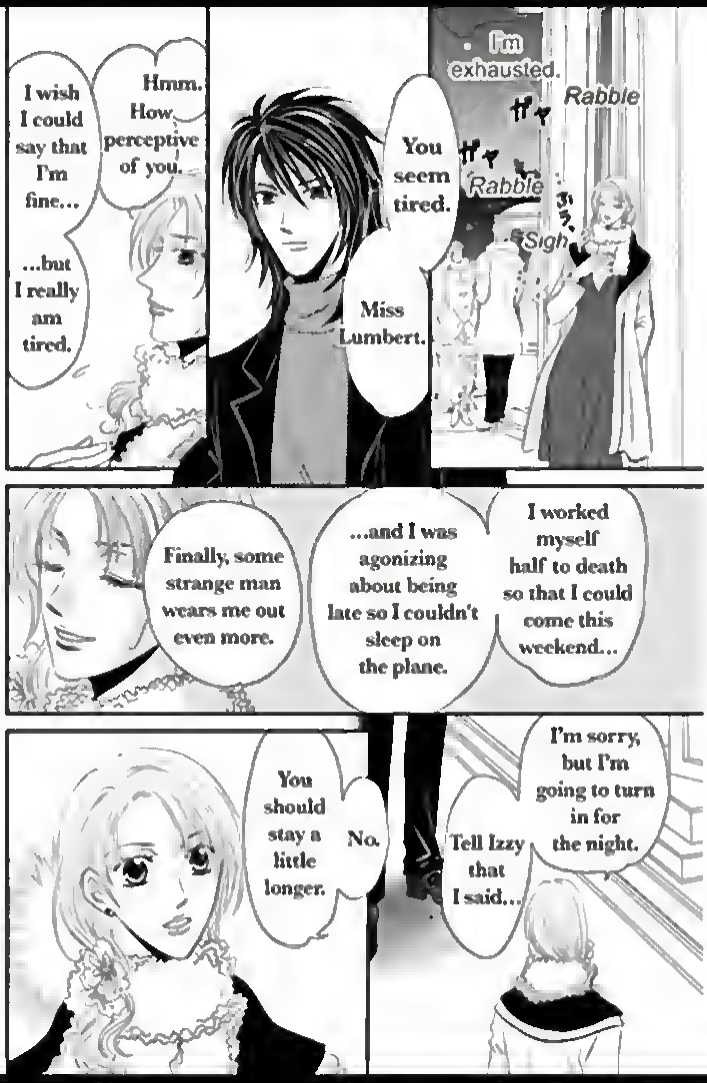
Congratulations on the engagement, Dom.
I'm sorry I was late.
Hey, Natasha! Thanks for coming!
Speak of the devil...
...but I really will take revenge if you make Izzy unhappy.
Okay
Everyone always says...
...“You'll be sorry if you make my best friend unhappy”...
Have mercy, Natasha!
What do you mean?
You were just with him.
What?
Where's this friend of Dom's who owns this place?
By the way, Izzy...

I'm the "retro-design fanatic."
This is my friend, and the owner of this estate, Kajim Al Salak.
You've already met Natasha, haven't you?
Sorry for not mentioning it before, Miss Lumbert.
WHA—
WHAT—?


Nothing like the irritable wasp queen with the mussed hair that I met before.
You're really much more attractive when you dress like this!
I enjoyed being your personal butler.
Grin!

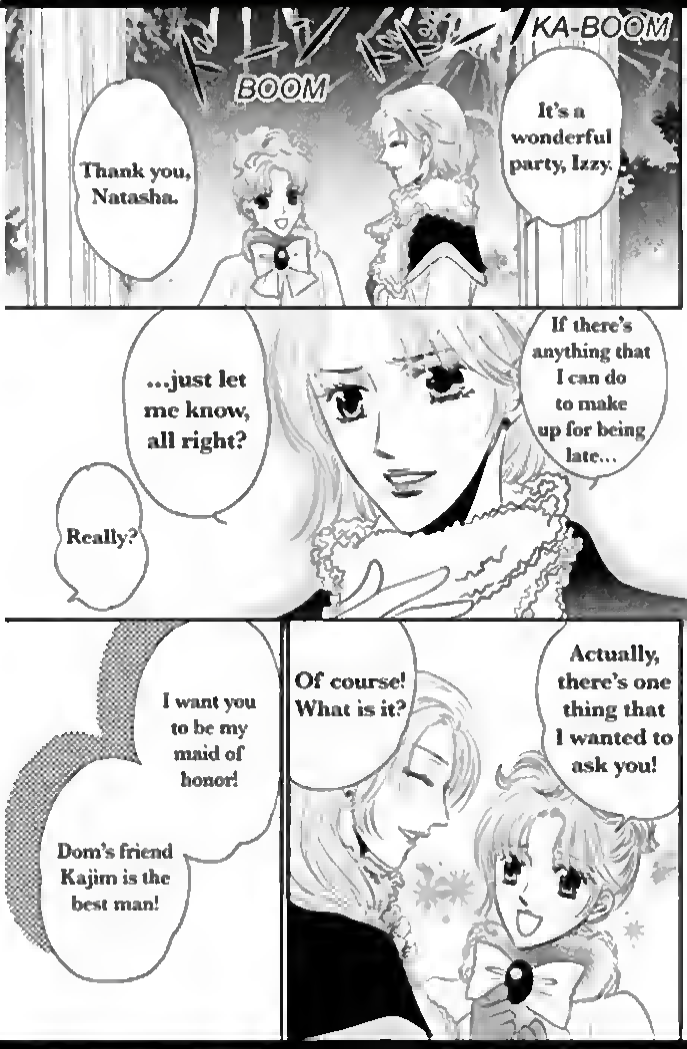

Grin!!
What a devious little thing you are!
You had me fooled completely!
No wonder you had the nerve to pretend my phone was a bomb and throw it in the bushes!
Grin! Grin! Grin!

Rustle
You're quite a strong-willed woman!
I just don't let men take advantage!
Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha Ha
Can't you stop them Dom?
No way, Izzy!


I wish I could say that I'm fine...
...but I really am tired.
Hmm. How perceptive of you.
You seem tired.
Miss Lumbert.
I'm exhausted.
Rabble
Rabble
Sigh
Finally, some strange man wears me out even more.
...and I was agonizing about being late so I couldn't sleep on the plane.
I worked myself half to death so that I could come this weekend...
You should stay a little longer.
No.
Tell Izzy that I said...
I'm sorry, but I'm going to turn in for the night.

Watch.
Still, isn't forcing someone who isn't feeling well to stay somewhat inappropriate?
I can understand the need for etiquette.
Whistle
BOOM
BOOM
KA-BOOM

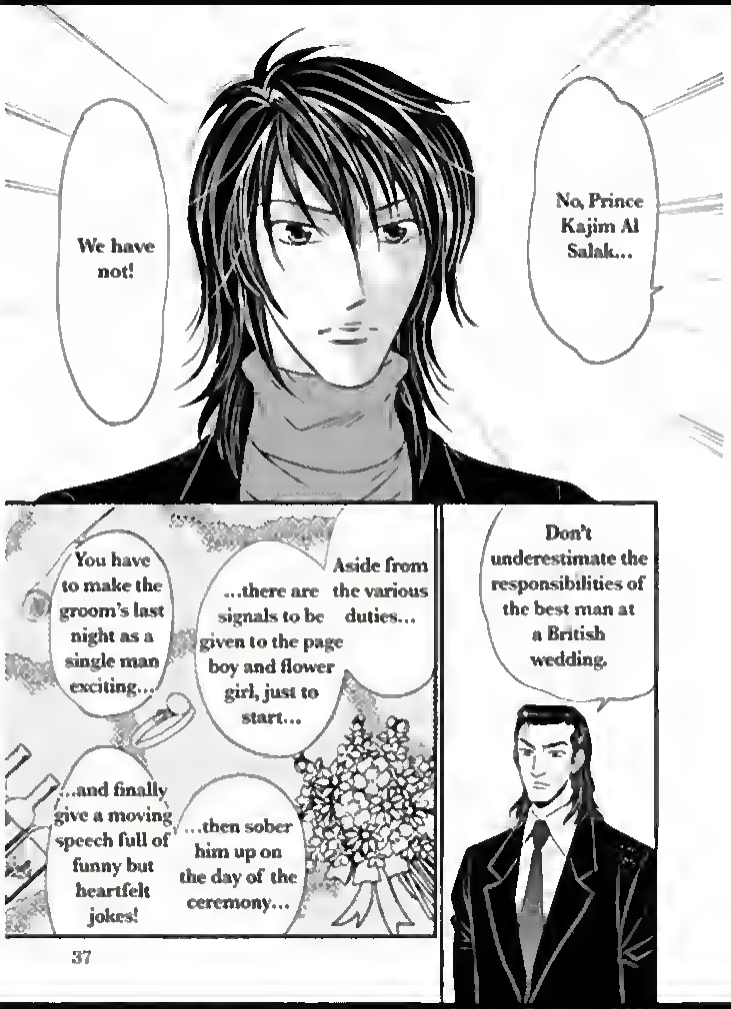
Izzy convinced Dom to hold off until you arrived.
BOOM
Oh, my...!
I didn't know that there would be fireworks tonight!
Actually, we were supposed to have them last night.
BOOM
Well?
I guess I have to be grateful to him for this
Never mind
Come on! Show me with your transcript
I didn't even think about Izzy's feelings...
She did...?


BOOM
KA-BOOM
Thank you, Natasha.
It's a wonderful party, Izzy.
If there's anything that I can do to make up for being late...
...just let me know, all right?
Really?
Actually, there's one thing that I wanted to ask you!
Of course! What is it?
I want you to be my maid of honor!
Dom's friend Kajim is the best man!

The maid of honor...
...arm in arm with the best man!
...walks behind the bride and groom...
I'll have to share a dance...
Then, at the reception...
With *him?*
KA-BOOM!
Stagger
BOOM

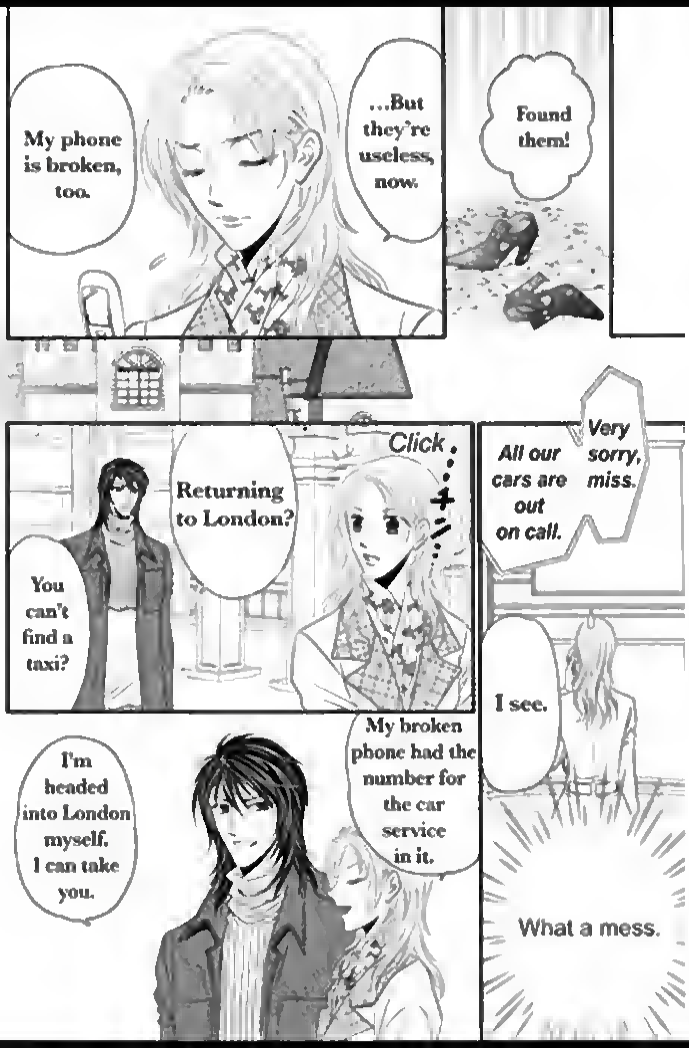
We've lost track of Slayman.
We should add additional security.
Anything else to report, Martin?
Flap
Security is never lax around here.
Especially with a talented secretary and bodyguard like yourself around.
You're too kind, Your Highness.
Rustle

I suppose Izzy's reaction to her proves she's the real thing, as well.
About Miss Natasha Lumbert...
I did some research, and she's no one to be concerned about.
It's just that my name is back on those extremist assassins' hit list...
...and her movements were so deliberate and well guarded.
That, with the fact she was late, had me convinced she was a pro, acting as Miss Lumbert.
As I've said before, Your Highness...
...that is why you should decline to be the best man!
It's not ton late.
We settled that matter already.

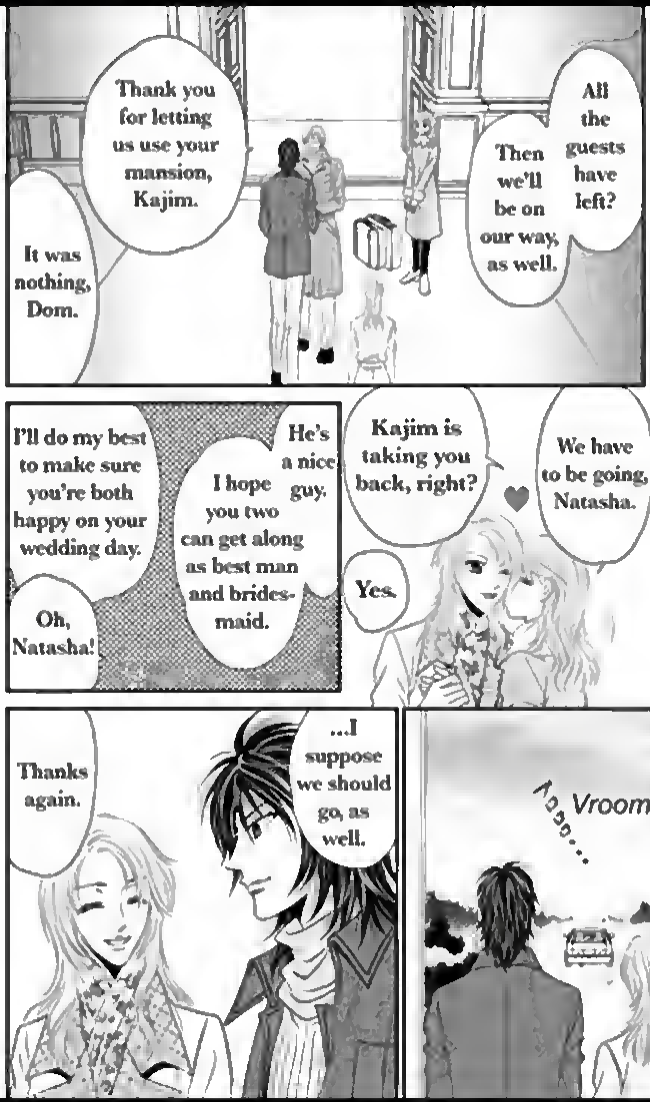

We have not!
No, Prince Kajim Al Salak...
You have to make the groom's last night as a single man exciting...
...there are signals to be given to the page boy and flower girl, just to start...
Aside from the various duties...
...and finally give a moving speech full of funny but heartfelt jokes!
...then sober him up on the day of the ceremony...
Don't underestimate the responsibilities of the best man at a British wedding.

I can take care of myself if I have to!
I've had training!
My greatest concern is that you can't leave until the very end of the ceremony.
It's as if you were asking to be assassinated!
I won't betray his trust!
The best man at a British wedding is the groom's best friend.
Dom asked me to be his.
This discussion is over, Martin.
I swear it!
...even if I have to clear my schedule for the next year, I will fulfill my promise!
No matter what you, or the kingdom, says...

Thank you, Martin.
...and station professional undercover bodyguards in the crowd, as you requested.
In that case, I shall prepare your schedule...
...I suppose if you are that determined, there's nothing else to be said.
Chirp
Chirp
Chirp
I still can't believe Izzy did that for me.
She seems so docile, but she always gets what she wants.
I'm glad she's on my side.
What a night...


My phone is broken, too.
...But they're useless, now.
Found them!
Click...
Returning to London?
You can't find a taxi?
Very sorry, miss.
All our cars are out on call.
I see.
What a mess.
My broken phone had the number for the car service in it.
I'm headed into London myself. I can take you.

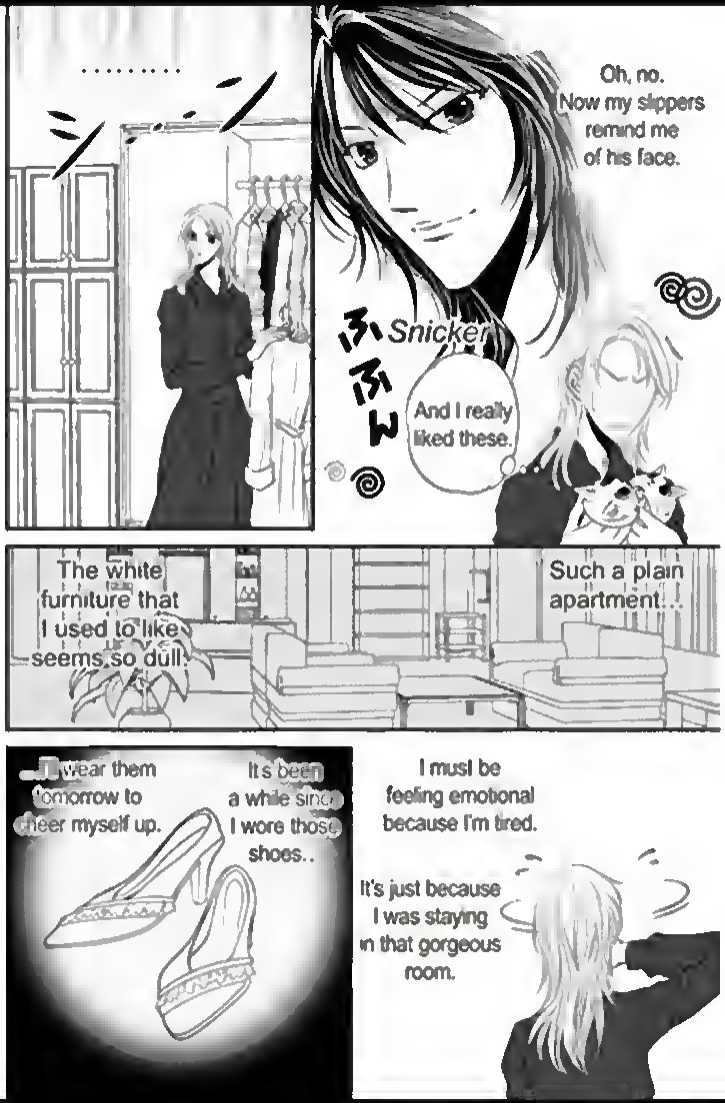
I was very rude to you last night.
What are you up to?
Oh? You seem suspiciously considerate today.
Ha ha ha. Nothing, I promise.
Naturally, I'll reimburse you for your phone, as well.
I'd like to make it up to you.
Not that I'll let him off the hook...
...but I suppose a proper epology merits taking it a little easy on him.
He may be a charmer, but he's rather honest, too.


Thank you for letting us use your mansion, Kajim.
It was nothing, Dom.
Then we'll be on our way, as well.
All the guests have left?
I'll do my best to make sure you're both happy on your wedding day.
Oh, Natasha!
I hope you two can get along as best man and bridesmaid.
He's a nice guy.
Kajim is taking you back, right?
Yes.
We have to be going, Natasha.
Thanks again.
...I suppose we should go, as well.
Vroom...

Kajim?
I think that car has been following us...
I doubt it.
Is someone trying to kill you or something?
The way you were acting last night, and now this...
I'm sure of it.

We're probably just going to the same place.
You think so? I'd be careful, if I were you.
What?
What's so funny?
Ha Ha Ha
は、は、は
...Nothing.
Sorry.
You really are a funny woman.
Me?
Are you making fun of me?
Funny?

...I still think you're making fun of me.
はははは...
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
It's hard to be bored when you're around.
No, I'm complimenting you.
Click
カチ
I'll have to unpack.
!!
At last, I'm finally home.
Sigh. I'm exhausted.


.....
Oh, no. Now my slippers remind me of his face.
Snicker
And I really liked these.
The white furniture that I used to like seems so dull.
Such a plain apartment...
I wear them tomorrow to cheer myself up.
It's been a while since I wore those shoes..
I must be feeling emotional because I'm tired.
It's just because I was staying in that gorgeous room.

Tap
Tap
Are those Chastity Fair shoes?
Wow, they're beautiful!
This early in the morning?
Thump
どっさり
Did something happen?
I looked through all these files.
I've already called Jason Terville.
I can't afford them yet, but you have to set high goals.
That's amaz-ing...
Well, what I really want are the premium limited editions.
Wow
Wow
Don't those cost, like, 5 times more than other brands?

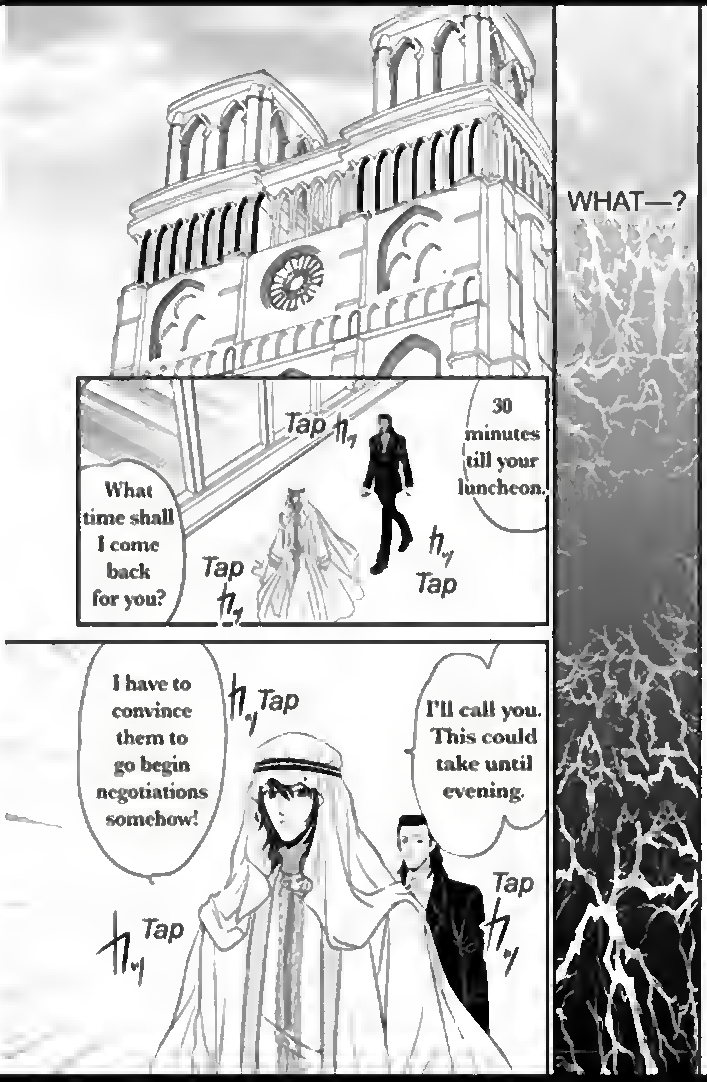
...asking people questions at train stations and street corners.
Carrying a clipboard...
I started market research as a part-time job.
Why don't you try starting your own company?
You're good at this kind of work.
I started Lumbert Research, Inc.
With my boss's encouragement...
I'm too old for this.
You're closing the company?
Then...
I bought these shoes as proof that my work had paid off.
...but I'm finally nding the wave, three years later.
It wasn't easy to get where I am now...

You have to help me, Natasha!
I need clothes!
Izzy. What's the matter?
Miss Dia is on the line.
That's right. I don't need a boyfriend or a husband.
Leave it to me! I'll head over tonight.
Ah, that old battle-ax?
HELP ME!!
Something that Dom's mother can't criticize!
Something that will dazzle the people who are against the wedding...
She needs clothes for her honey-moon.
...and woo her mother-in-law.
My friend is getting married soon.
Welcome, Miss Lumbert.
I swore that I would take care of myself after...

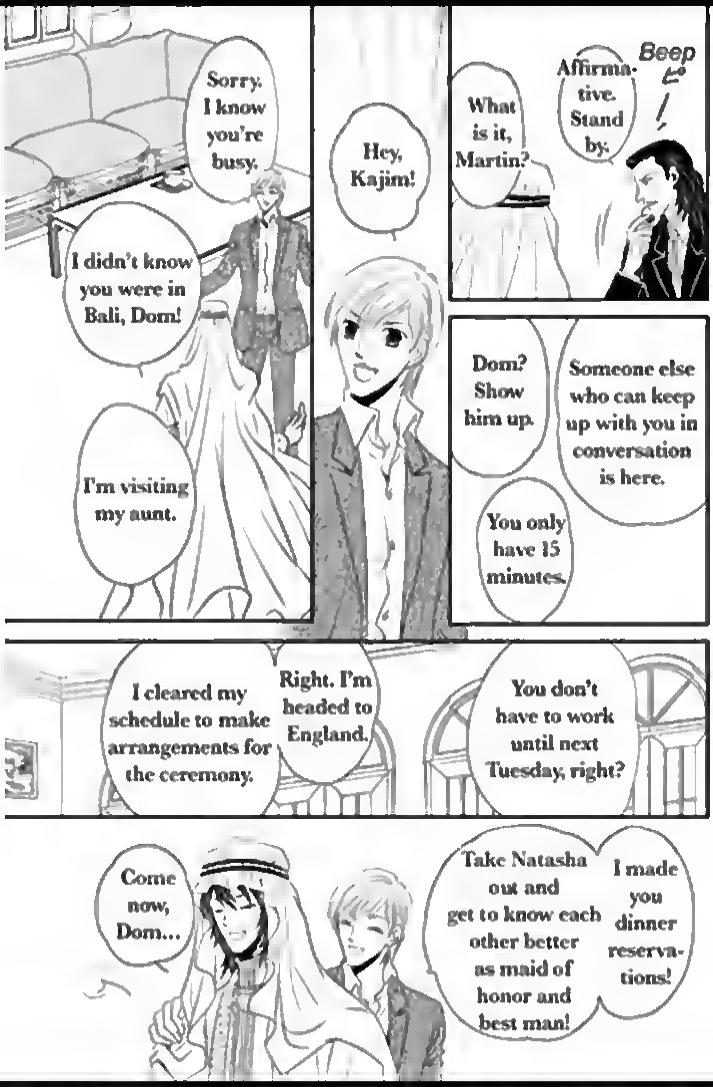
Understood. I'll be back in 5 minutes.
Natasha!
Make it something that the groom will want to get her to take off as soon as he can!
One more thing.
Now, for shoes.
...Oh, right.
Thank you, Natasha.
This is perfect!
The premium limited editions I've always wanted!..
Chastity Fair.

You should have Dom buy them for you.
Even his bride can't compete with that price tag.
Wow...
They're beautiful.
Those are real gemstones.
Besides, not too many men could afford a gift like that.
I'll buy them myself, someday.
You should find someone who'll buy them for you, Natasha.
Don't you think he's good-looking?
What do you mean?
What about Kajim?
Jump

After all, he's a real prince.
A what?
He can't help being a little stuck-up.
He's a real pompous and arrogant "gentleman."
Oh, sure. Good-looking, likes to make fun of people...
He's the sheikh of the Salak kingdom.
Sheikh Kajim Al Salak.


WHAT—?
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
30 minutes till your luncheon.
What time shall I come back for you?
Tap
Tap
I'll call you. This could take until evening.
I have to convince them to go begin negotiations somehow!
Tap
Tap
Tap

You seem to be in good spirits, Your Majesty.
Did you enjoy your drive with the pretty lady the other day?
...Yes. It was fun.
She noticed a car following us on security detail.
That woman is even sharper than she looks.
Not to mention clever.
I didn't think that anyone could hold their own, let alone surprise me, in conversation.
Except maybe for someone I grew up with, like you, Martin.
Well, well...


Sorry. I know you're busy.
I didn't know you were in Bali, Dom!
I'm visiting my aunt.
Hey, Kajim!
What is it, Martin?
Affirmative. Stand by.
Beep
Dom? Show him up.
Someone else who can keep up with you in conversation is here.
You only have 15 minutes.
I cleared my schedule to make arrangements for the ceremony.
Right. I'm headed to England.
You don't have to work until next Tuesday, right?
Come now, Dom...
Take Natasha out and get to know each other better as maid of honor and best man!
I made you dinner reservations!

You need to take a break!
True, she's very attractive...
...but I'm not interested.
Just listen, Kajim.
You're on the path to a nervous breakdown.
Ever since the party, you've been working yourself like a madman.
Let me be straight with you.
I appreciate your concern, but I'm not that fragile.
...It's just that I can never love again.
I...
...I couldn't bear it again!
Kajim...

...You always have to put it your way, don't you?
I suppose dinner with a beauty like her wouldn't be so bad.
Still, as long as you've taken the trouble...
"That could also be arranged."
"This place has everything but an Arabian sheikh!"
Arranged?
He *was* an Arabian sheikh!

Of all the dishonest...!
I can't believe it!
"Is someone trying to kill you or something?"
He just laughed it off, but...
"It's hard to be bored when you're around."
The car that was following us must have been his bodyguards.
Now it all makes sense

…it's a platinum edition of the very latest model.
Even the phone that arrived for me today.
It's so stupid of me not to notice.
People who are higher in rank try to hide their status.
How much did he spend on this thing?
No wonder he didn't seem like an average rich guy.
He really treasures his friends.
…even letting them use his mansion.
…he's acting as Dom's best man…
Even though he's royalty…

Hi, Natasha. It's Kajim.
Hello?
Just when I was thinking about him.
I knew it!
Aah!
Jump
An unlisted number.
Thump
Thump
Oh, right. Mr. Sheikh.
Calm down, Natasha!
My heart is racing.
.....
Thump
Thump
Don't worry about it.
It was my fault, after all.
I wasn't expecting anything this extravagant.
Uh-oh! Sounds like someone let it slip.
Thank you for the nice new phone.

I'm glad to hear you say that.
...it's water under the bridge.
...True. I was pretty upset with you that night.
Although, since you apologized...
Smile
We should get along for their saka, at the very least.
You're right.
After all, it wouldn't be very pleasant...
...if the maid of honor and best man walked behind the bride and groom glaring at each other.
By the way, are you doing anything next Tuesday?

I've never been inside such an expensive place.
Dom is the one who arranged it.
I thought it was suspicious that he knew when my schedule would be free...
Sure enough, he had planned this arranged with my assistant.
That's Dom for you. Even a sheikh's assistant will do what he wants.

I'm not even the least bit tired.
Both of them were pressuring me to take time off.
It's just that I strongly agree...
"You need to take a break"
But you're busy enough to make people worry about you.
What is it that you do, exactly?
I manage my family's philanthropic affairs.
...At least, that's what I'm supposed to be doing.
I'm always running around the world, trying to defuse as many conflicts as I can.
...while I spend most of my time unofficially arbitrating international disputes.
Actually, I let a management committee handle that...
Wow...!
That's an amazing job!
It seems that I underestimated you.

I was impressed with you, as well.
I hear that Lumbert Research, Inc., is rated among the top-ten companies in your field.
It makes sense that extremists would see you as a target, then.
That's about right.
Jump
It seems you haven't made it public...
...but your company donates a lot of money to aid programs for refugees of African civil wars.
The steaming jungle...!
Africa...
...but contributes to humanitarian efforts, as well, will go far.
I'm sure that someone who doesn't just focus on profit...

Don't go, Sean!
I'm sorry, Natasha.
はっ Gasp
Sean..
Sean!
...Natasha?
...
You don't look fine.
I'm fine. It's nothing.
Did something happen in Africa?
...I went there on a trip to celebrate graduating college.
I just happened to see a refugee camp and it was shocking
It brought back some memories. That's all.
This is bad.
I have to change the subject.

Don't people usually hassle royalty to get married?
Luckily, I have quite a few siblings. As the youngest, no one gives me much trouble.
No, I'm single.
Anyway, what about you? Are you married?
That seems odd. You seem like you would be popular with women.
Not that I'm interested in dating, or marriage for that matter.
.....Well...
I suppose I can tell you.
The truth is, there was once a woman I wanted to marry...
What about you? You're beautiful, but choose to stay single, don't you?
I have my business to look after.
What's your excuse?

She died...
...48 hours before our wedding.
What?
A group of extremists kidnapped and murdered her.
I couldn't protect her...

No, it's all right.
Please forgive me, Kajim.
I'm so sorry! I shouldn't have pried.
Clack
...Kajim!
Squeeze
Jump
That's why I told you.
I felt a kinship with you tonight.

Vroom
Click
Click
Click
Click
.....
Kajim...

Generous as a sheikh, I guess.
That Kajim...
He didn't have to give me a present, too...
Kchik
I'm pretty sure that I know what you like.
...Easy for him to say.
Something to make up for the shoes I ruined.
I'm sure they'll look great on you.
This box...!
What?
If he gives me a platinum phone, I can only imagine...
Well, let's see if the sheikh has any fashion sense.

It...
It can't be...
The Chastity Fair...
...premium limited editions!

Glub
You'll just go back to being like before!
Don't give in!
Don't cry!
No!
A long time ago. I loved dreamy romances more than anyone.
Canopied beds and antique furniture
and a prince that would take me away to his castle
Yes, Izzy. I know you can see through me.
Fump

...that someday my prince would give me those shoes as a gift.
Ever since I was young, I dreamed
That's why I fell for a man like him.
I believed he was the one for me
Sean. Handsome, rich and kind
I love you, Natasha.
Africa?
Isn't it danger-ous?
Don't worry. I'll protect you.
We'll see the ocean and the savanna together!

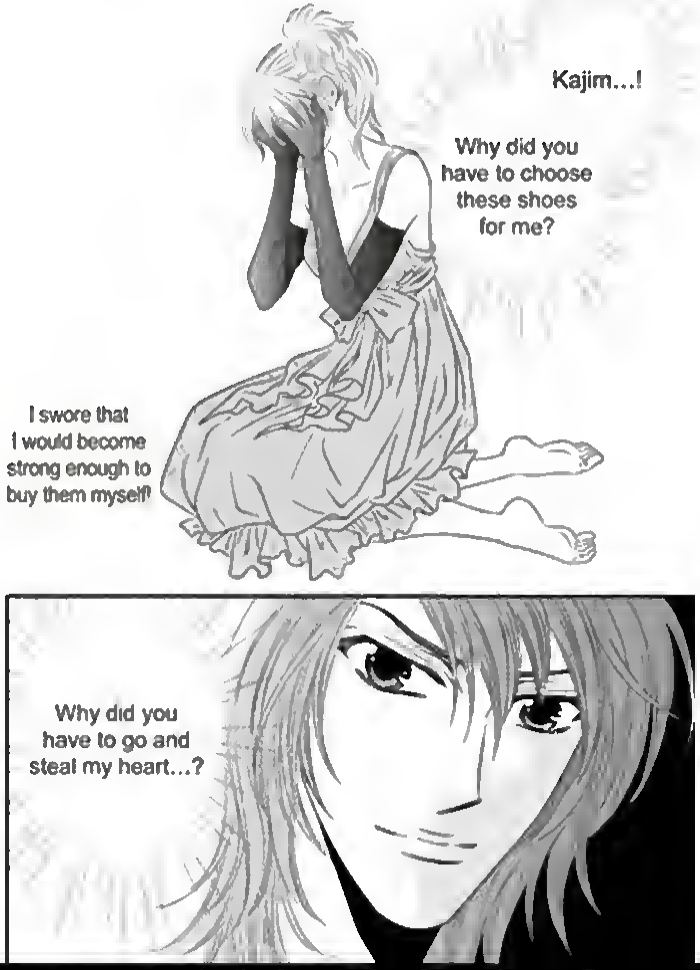
Guerillas, who kidnapped foreign lounsts as hostages
And in a beautiful beachfront bar
We were surrounded by a group of armed men
...he got his parents to pay his own ransom...
...and left me behind!
Instead of protecting me, like he said...
Even more than my disappointment in him. ...I saw how sinister the world really is. I cursed how stupid and ignorant I was. Then, when I was miraculously able to return home, I swore ..
...I would become stronger then anyone!

I was excited to find ways to slip past his cool exterior.
Even though I acted confrontational, I enjoyed our conversations.

He's not like Sean...

He treasures his friends...

...and he's a great man, doing work that I respect.

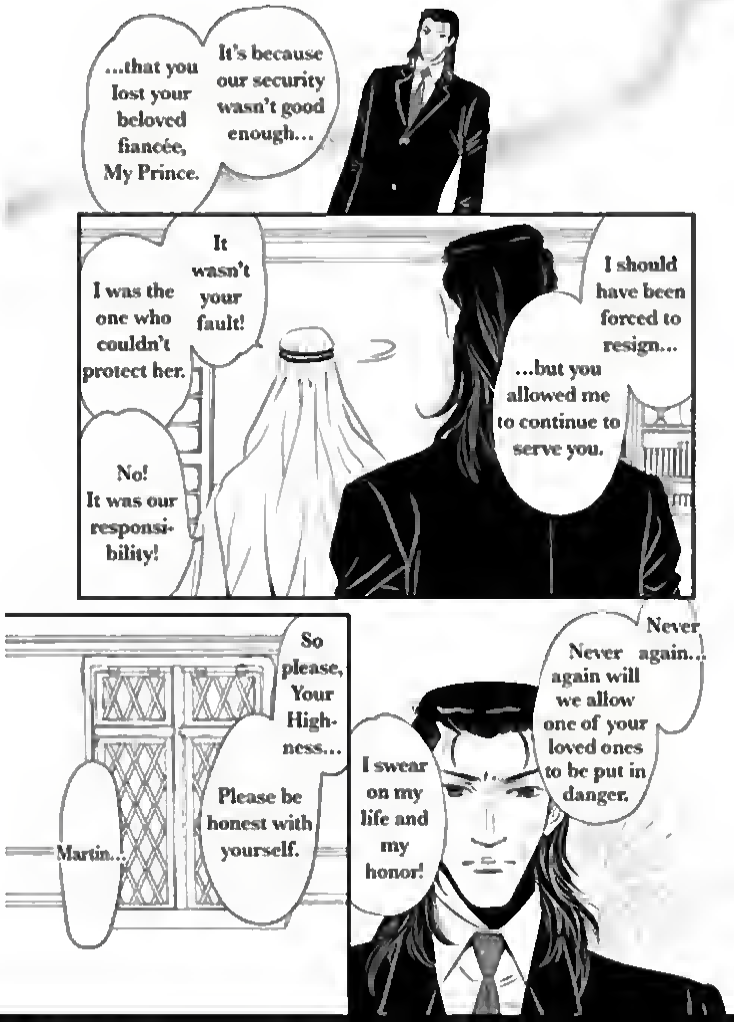

Kajim...!
Why did you have to choose these shoes for me?
I swore that I would become strong enough to buy them myself
Why did you have to go and steal my heart...?

There's only a month left until Dom and Izzy's wedding!
Oh, no!
I've lost count how many times I've been back and forth between the Middle East, India and Europe.
...I can't believe these negotiations are taking so long!
At least there's finally been a break.
You didn't like the shoes?
...Natasha!
That's not it.
No...
There's another personal hurdle to jump...

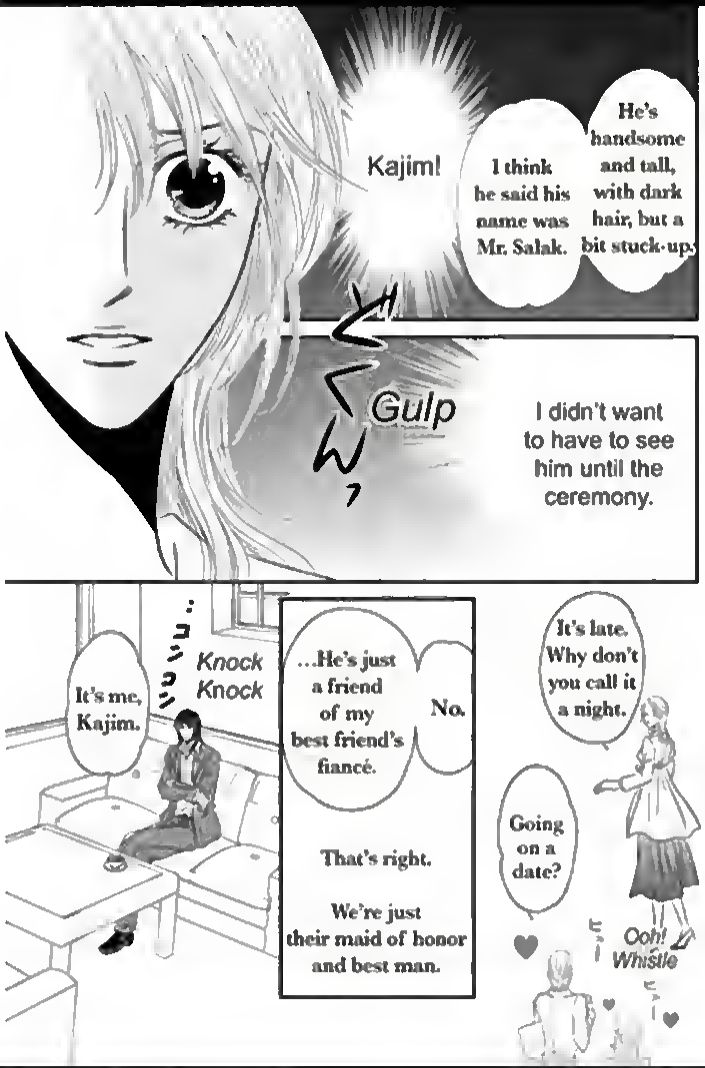
...I'd always wanted those shoes.
...but I had decided that I would buy them myself.
Then why did you send them back?
.....
....I'm sorry. I shouldn't have shouted.
!?
How about this?
I'll keep them in a bank locker.
That sounds like a reason I'd expect from you.
That's not what I want!
...I'll give you the key.
Once your company becomes #1...
...I'm sorry.
Click
Natasha?
I just can't accept them.

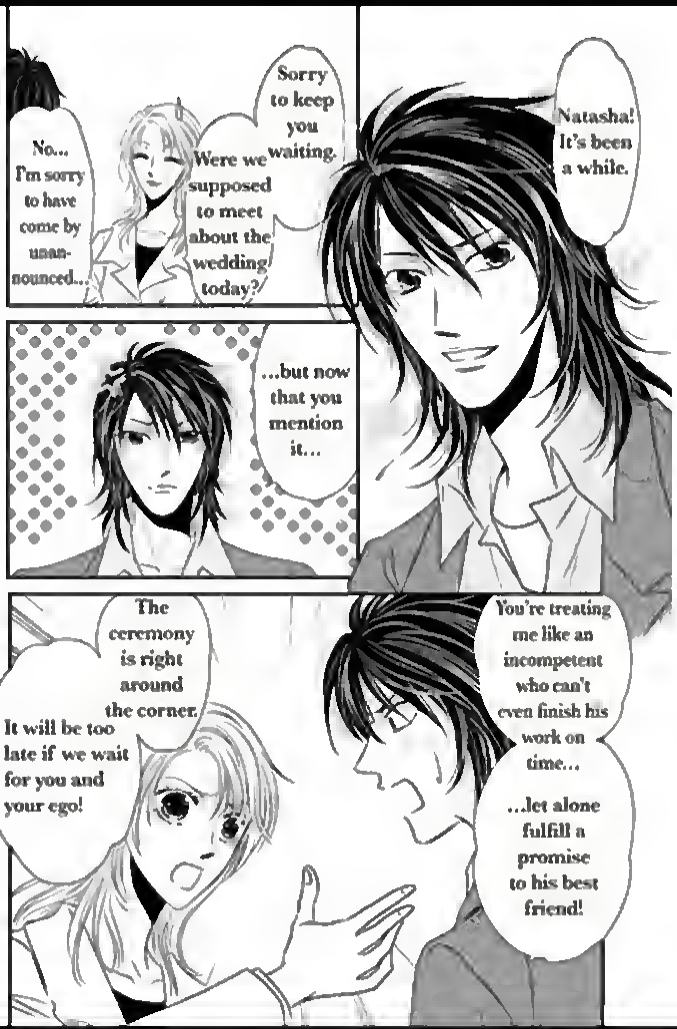
What?
...we've received several e-mails from Miss Lumbert's office.
About your being best man...
What does it mean?
I've been calling her since then, but she won't answer.
Those were Miss Lumbert's instructions.
Why didn't you inform me?
She says that she understands how busy you are...
...and to prioritize your work if negotiations break down...
She's arranged for someone to handle the responsibilities of best man. Her message ends by saying all Your Majesty has to do is prepare a speech and look after the groom on the wedding day.
Martin! Charter a plane!
I'm going to London immediately!

I'm overjoyed that Your Majesty has taken a romantic interest...
...but I don't see how it would be possible.
Martin!
Just wait another 3 days.
Until the final documents are signed.
I'll be back in a day!
Can't we stall them?
A thousand pardons, Prince.
Don't you start, as well. She's not…
Just as you can never forget what happened...
...it will remain with us forever, as well.


...that you lost your beloved fiancée, My Prince.
It's because our security wasn't good enough...
I was the one who couldn't protect her.
It wasn't your fault!
No! It was our responsibility!
I should have been forced to resign...
...but you allowed me to continue to serve you.
Martin...
So please, Your Highness...
Please be honest with yourself.
I swear on my life and my honor!
Never again... Never again will we allow one of your loved ones to be put in danger.

Tap
What a meeting...
It's already this late?
It definitely paid off, though.
Tap-Tap
Welcome back.
There's been someone waiting for you for more than an hour.
I didn't have any appointments.
Who is it?


Kajim!
I think he said his name was Mr. Salak.
He's handsome and tall, with dark hair, but a bit stuck-up.
Gulp
I didn't want to have to see him until the ceremony.
It's me, Kajim.
Knock Knock
...He's just a friend of my best friend's fiancé.
No.
That's right.
We're just their maid of honor and best man.
It's late. Why don't you call it a night.
Going on a date?
Ooh! Whistle


Natasha! It's been a while.
Sorry to keep you waiting.
Were we supposed to meet about the wedding today?
No... I'm sorry to have come by unannounced...
...but now that you mention it...
You're treating me like an incompetent who can't even finish his work on time...
...let alone fulfill a promise to his best friend!
The ceremony is right around the corner.
It will be too late if we wait for you and your ego!

There's only one of you, and there's a limit to how much you can do.
It's a major international incident, right?
In times like those, it's best to share the work with someone you trust.
That's true, but...
...you can't predict how much time working with people will take.
And unlike desk work...
Natasha...
The bags under your eyes are a dead giveaway.
You're not getting enough sleep, are you?
...but that means you've taken on my responsibilities.
This is nothing.
I'm always like this before a presentation.

Something important?
...there's something very important that I wanted to ask you today.
The truth is...
Jump
About Africa.
—!
I thought that it might help me understand why you returned the shoes.
You avoided the subject at dinner...
...Something happened, didn't it?
...I suppose it's only fair.
Since you told me about your fiancée...
.....
.....
All right.
...But I need to know.

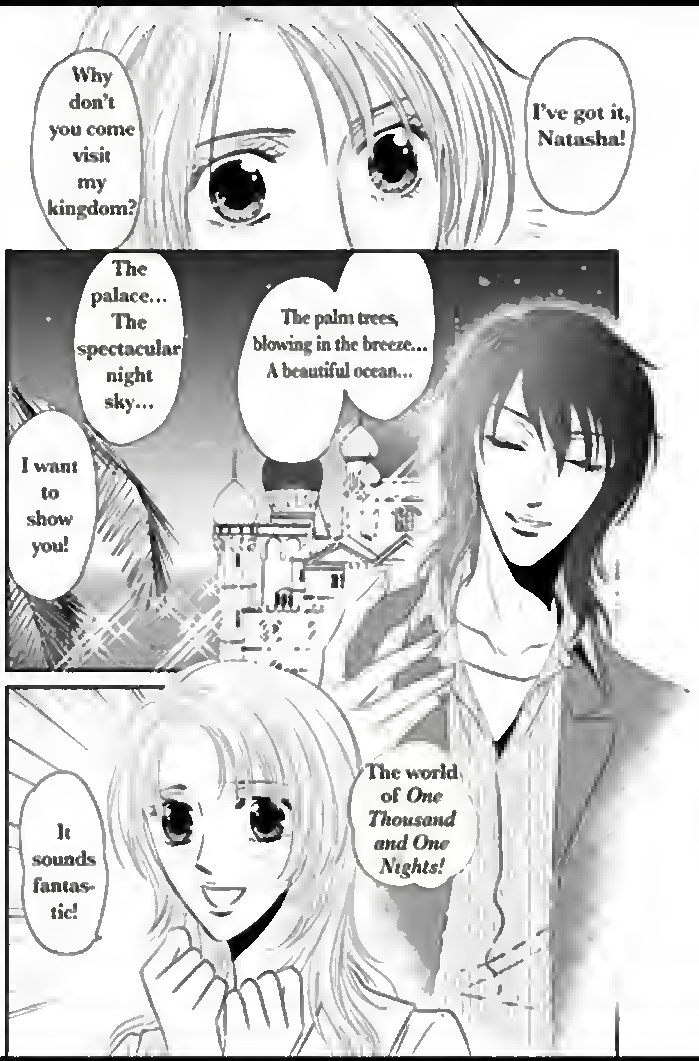
We were being taken to one of their bases.
The few hostages that were left...
...were forced to walk through the jungle for days.
I mean... Did they hurt you?
Were you...
Don't go!
Don't leave me, Sean!
Most of the ones guarding us were children.
I was beaten occasionally...
...but never raped, fortunately.

...and we managed to steal a vehicle and escape.
The hostages all came up with a plan to distract the guards...
They had weapons, but they were still just kids.
I still think it's a miracle that we made it back alive.
We happened to come across a refugee camp, where we got help.
After that, we were just lucky.
...but I can't remember what it was that made me love him.
He may have been...
The man who left you there was your boyfriend?

I chose a man based on the conditions that I'd dreamed about, and look what happened.
His groomed hair...
Moderately rich...
His shallow, contrived kindness...
Natasha...
That incident wasn't his fault...
It was mine.
I'm sorry.
I know this story is depressing.

I'm glad that you told me your story.
Why would you thank me?
Please.
No...
It must have been hard to share such a painful memory.
Thank you, Natasha.
Kajim...
...I'm so grateful that you survived.

Why should it concern you?
After all that happened...
...but what do you think happened to those child soldiers?
I'm thankful that we escaped...
Kajim?
Yes?
If they hadn't had guns, they would have been normal children.
After all, the only reason the Salak kingdom is at peace is because of me.
はっはっは
Ha ha ha
He'd be such a nice sheikh if it weren't for this arrogant streak.
I want the world to have peace.
Natasha...
You...
That's why we're putting our lives on the line to negotiate with these countries!
Of course.


Why don't you come visit my kingdom?
I've got it, Natasha!
The palace... The spectacular night sky...
The palm trees, blowing in the breeze... A beautiful ocean...
I want to show you!
It sounds fantastic!
The world of *One Thousand and One Nights!*

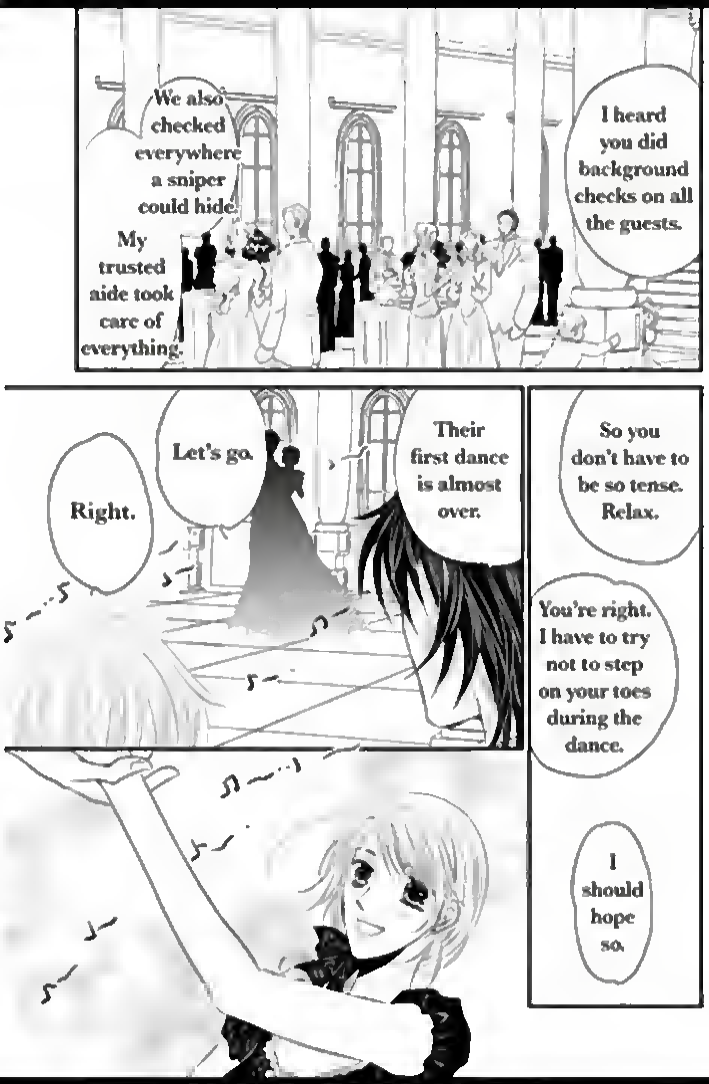
Oh, Kajim
Please...
Don't look at me like that.
Gasp
はっ
I can't right now.
I... I'm sorry.
I feel like a little girl when I'm with you.
You're thinking about those slippers, aren't you?
I see. That makes sense.
Forget you saw them!
うっきゃ～ん
Sooo cute!
I'll have to be happy with koalas and kangaroos, instead of camels.
I'm far too busy with this new project.
今の仕事はオーストラリア
I'm working for an Australian

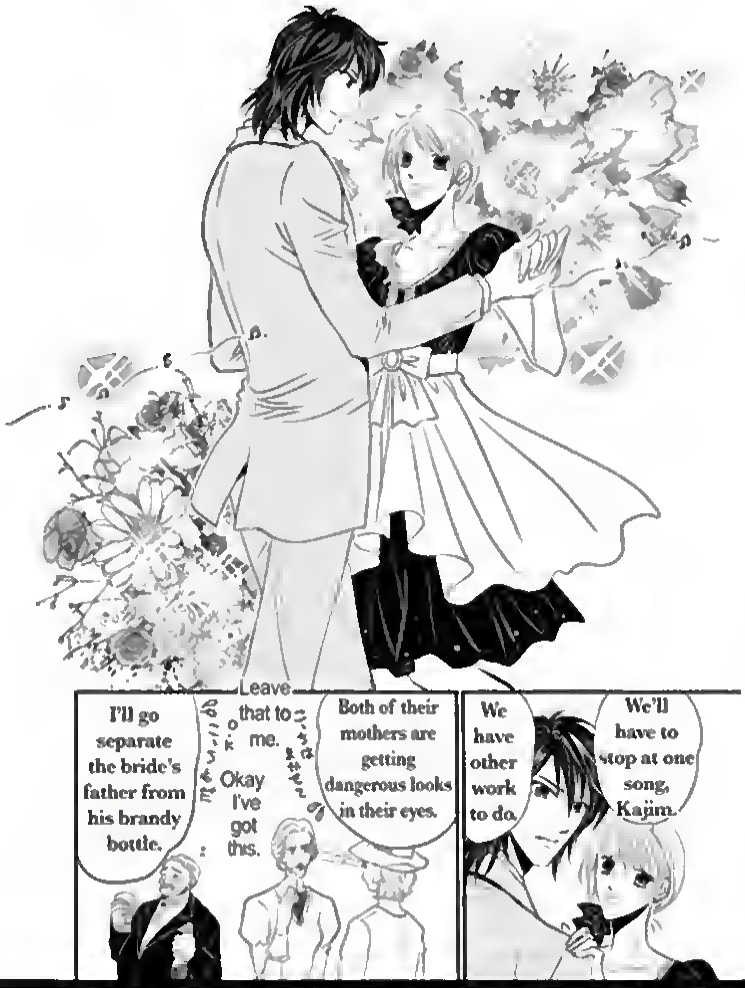
Thank you.
I promise I'll visit someday.
I'll make sure you're treated as a VIP.
Still, I want you to come to Salak eventually.

He'll forget about me…
We'll never see each other again, after the wedding
That someday will never come.

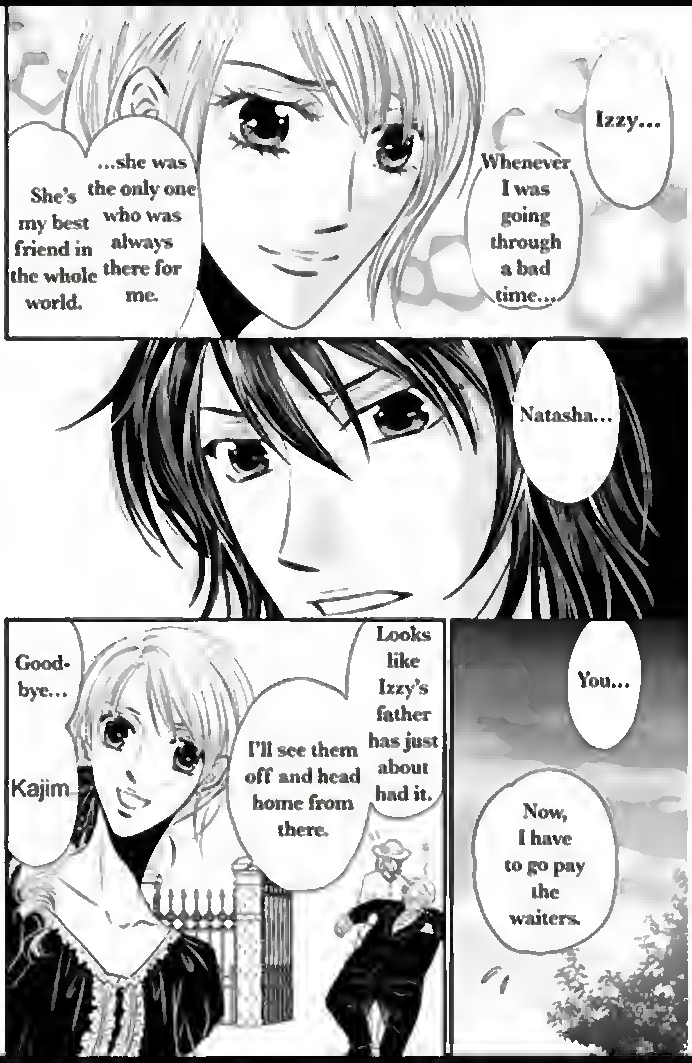
Oh, Izzy!
You make such a beautiful bride!
Dom will fall for you all over again!
Hee! Thank you.
Where's Dom?
Kanon is sobering him up.
Everything is ready.

Ding Dong
Ding Dong
I see your bodyguards are pretending to be relatives.
You noticed? I'm impressed.


I heard you did background checks on all the guests.
We also checked everywhere a sniper could hide.
My trusted aide took care of everything.
Their first dance is almost over.
Let's go.
Right.
So you don't have to be so tense. Relax.
You're right. I have to try not to step on your toes during the dance.
I should hope so.


I'll go separate the bride's father from his brandy bottle.
Leave that to me.
Okay I've got this.
Both of their mothers are getting dangerous looks in their eyes.
We have other work to do.
We'll have to stop at one song, Kajim.

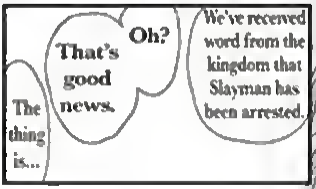
I thought you gave a good speech, though.
Must be the negotiating experience.
I didn't do anything, compared to you.
You did fine.
That was more work than I was expecting.
Well, I was expecting.
You think so, too?
Yes.
...but honestly, it's a bit of a lonely feeling.
I'm happy my best friend is safely married...


Izzy...
Whenever I was going through a bad time...
...she was the only one who was always there for me.
She's my best friend in the whole world.
Natasha...
You...
Now, I have to go pay the waiters.
Looks like Izzy's father has just about had it.
I'll see them off and head home from there.
Good-bye...
Kajim

Natasha...
I know you feel as if you've lost your friend, now that she's married.
Will you go on projecting your strength forever? Never resting?
What was I going to say?
"Aren't you lonely, as well?"
You criticize with words, but your eyes lit up at the beauty of the Egyptian Room.
I... ...have seen your true face.
The way you tried to hide your cute slippers, like a little girl.

You never told me why you wouldn't accept those shoes
Was it because you were afraid to go back to being so fragile and naive?

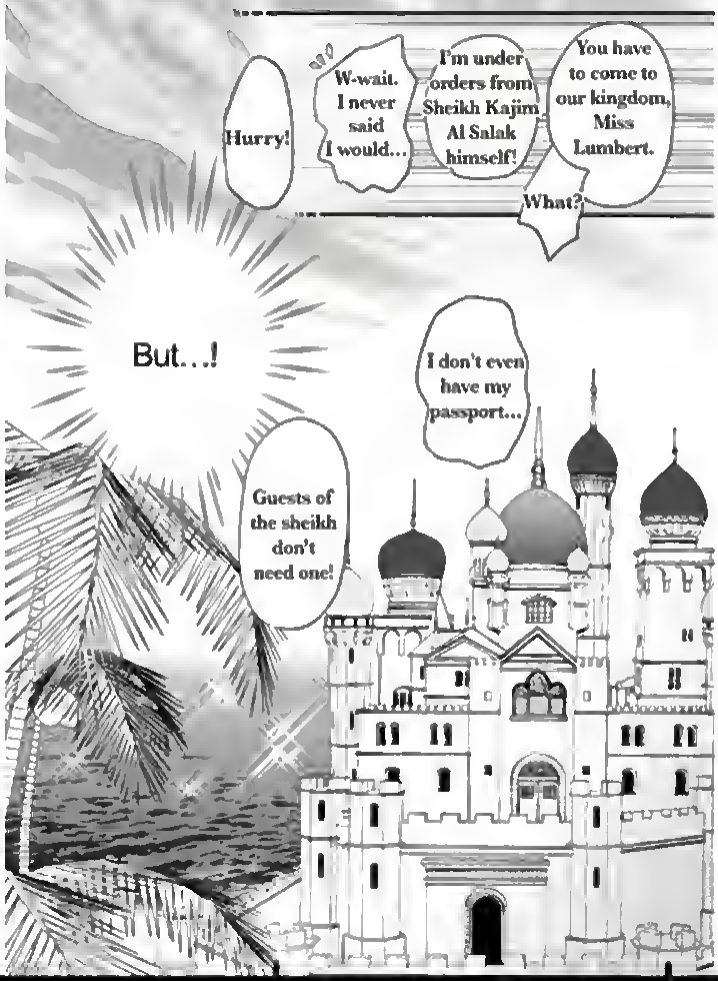
What is it, Martin?
Your Highness.


We've received word from the kingdom that Slayman has been arrested.
Oh?
That's good news.
The thing is...

He confessed...
...that he sold photos of you and Miss Lumbert to the terrorist group, Sons of Salak.

Natasha...
I...

Natasha!
Screech
Slam
Miss Natasha Lumbert?
Get in the car! Hurry!
Now...
All that's left is the contract with Frankel Co
Once that's finished, I can rest.
Vroom
Click
Izzy... I wish you the best.


Hurry!
W-wait. I never said I would...
I'm under orders from Sheikh Kajim Al Salak himself!
You have to come to our kingdom, Miss Lumbert.
What?
But...!
I don't even have my passport...
Guests of the sheikh don't need one!

I don't understand...
What's happening?
Natasha!
Kajim!

I should have been more careful.
I'm so sorry. It's my fault.
What?
Pictures of me?
W-why...
...do I feel so hurt by those words?
スキ
Jump
Now I've gotten a complete outsider involved.
Outsider?
I have a big job waiting for me.
...Just a minute, Kajim.
I need to go back to England.
It's the safest place for you.
You need to stay here in the palace until things settle down.

I've been doing presentations for months, and we're finally about to land a huge contract.
Give me 3 days.
I'm sorry... I can't allow it.
Once that's finished, I'll do whatever you say.
Absolutely not!
Can't you have someone at your company handle it for you?
As the head of my company, I have to be there.
The client is coming all the way to England for this.
...Yes. It is.
...Is that the same client that asked for an unscheduled dinner meeting...
...and made you late for your best friend's engagement party?
What of it?
What?
...I don't like it.

Either way, I can't allow you to leave.
Forget about signing a client like that.
What?
Can you be sure it isn't you they're after?
You make it sound like I'm getting this contract because of my looks!
You jerk!
Blush
What if they demand sexual favors from you in return for signing?
Would you do it, for the sake of the contract?
Even if that's not your intention, can you be sure it's not true?

Slap!
パーン
Natasha!
.....
.....
..Ow...

Jerk!
How dare he?
What have I done?
Damn it!
Is that how he thinks of me?
I hate him!
Vroom
Vehicle leaving the palace of Kajim Al Salak.
It's headed toward the ruins.
What?

Contact headquarters!
It's the sheikh's woman!
Is it her?
A young blonde woman is driving.
Lumbert Research, Inc., has always worked hard.
...but I have pride in what I do!
I'm sure it seems petty compared to Kajim's work...
...ruins ...?
Are those...

I wonder what era they're from?
They're amazing!
I got so angry and left without thinking, but…
…could it be…
…that I'm in real danger, coming here?
Click!
Don't move!
!!

You're coming with us.
Who...?
Natasha Lumbert.
These men...
..are they the terronsts after Kajim?
Ow!
Stomp!
What?
...I'm not the sheikh's girl-friend.
...I hate to tell you, but...
I didn't think they'd be lying in wait so close.
Damn it!
Don't let her get away!
Dash!

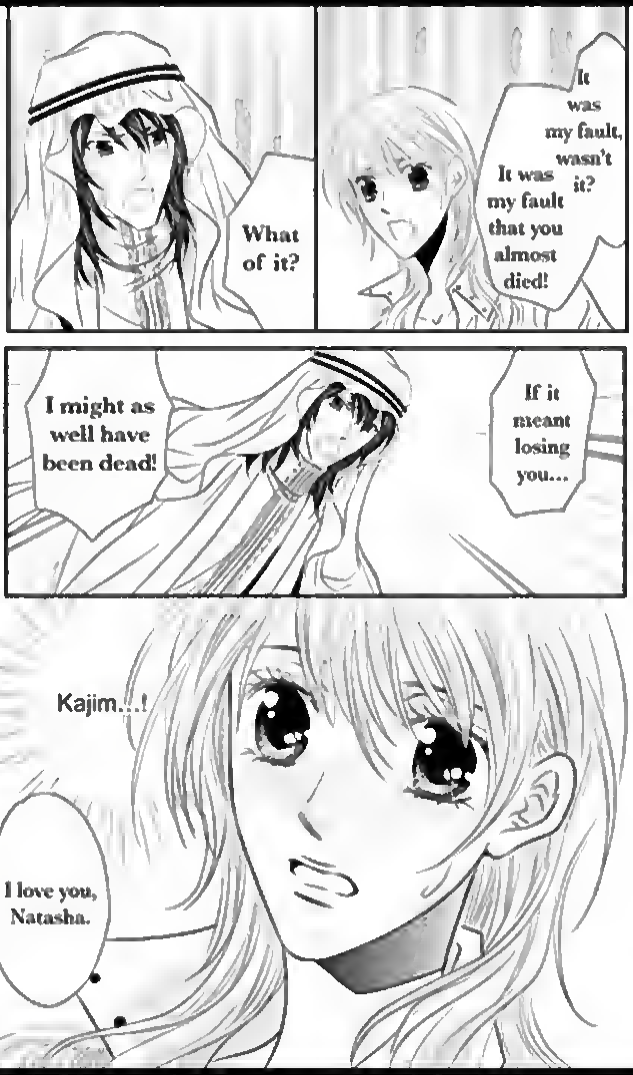
Kpow!
Aiiiie!
Kpow!
Kpow!
Pow!
Zing
I'm terrified! This is what Kajim is always risking?
Pant
Pant
Pant
That's why he was being so arrogant...
...he was trying to force me to stay safe!

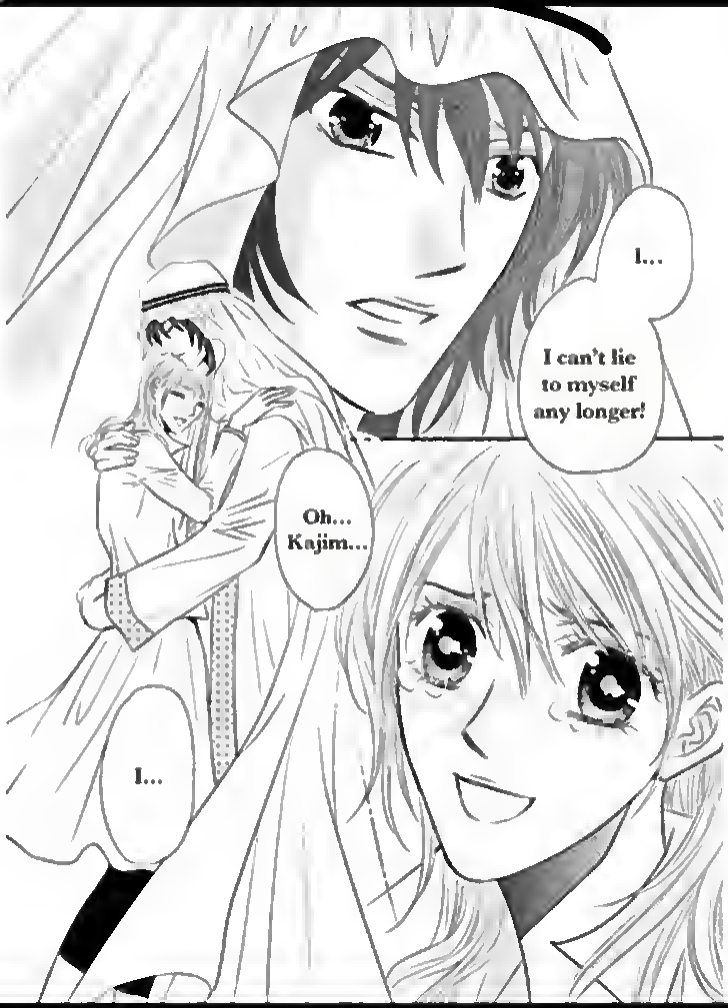
Oh…
Clack
Jump!
Natasha!
I've been looking for you!
…Kajim!

Fwoosh
What?
I'm sorry, too. I was jealous, and never meant to say something like that.
Oh, Kajim...
I'm so glad you're safe.
I'm so sorry.
Gasp!
Kajim... What did you just say?
Kpow!
Kpow!
Natasha!
Look out!
Kpow!

Wha...
N-no...
Thud
Noooo!
Kajim!

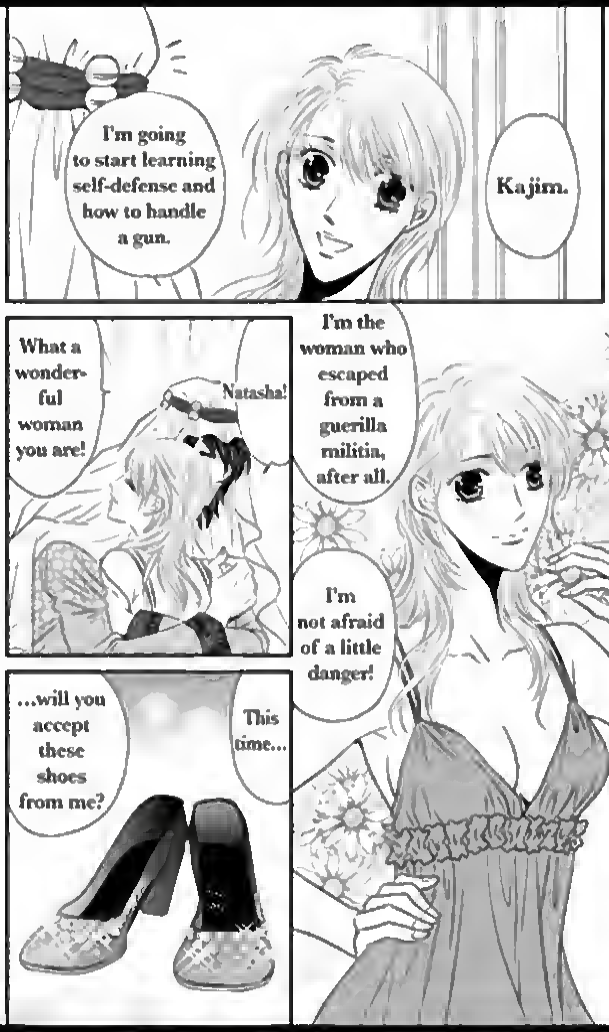
Kajim... Thank God.
You're all right!
Phew... Even with a bulletproof vest, this hurts...
Wake up! Please!
Kajim! Hold on!
We've captured one over here!
The other one?
Dead, sir!
Where's His Highness?
I'm over here!
Kajim...
Your Highness! Are you hurt?
You can't just run off alone like that!

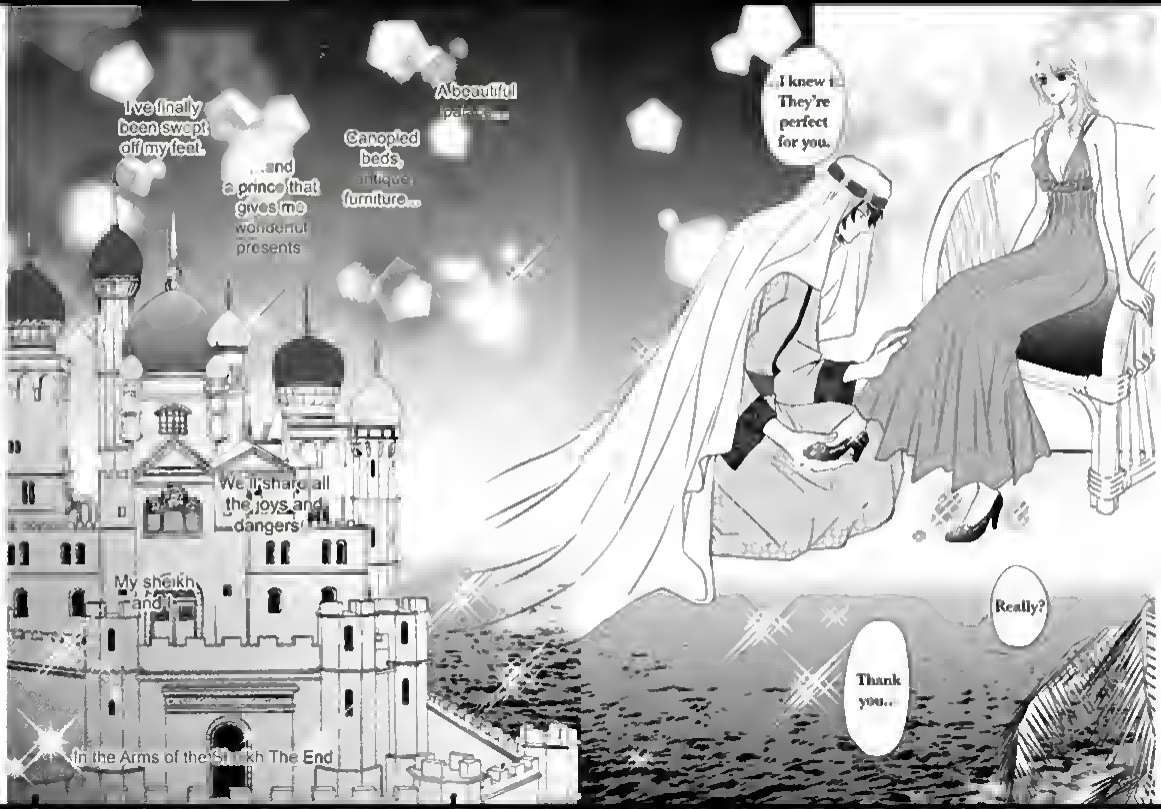

What of it?
It was my fault, wasn't it?
It was my fault that you almost died!
I might as well have been dead!
If it meant losing you...
Kajim...!
I love you, Natasha.


I...
I can't lie to myself any longer!
Oh... Kajim...
I...

I love you,
too!

The Sons of Salak are finished.
Fwoosh
...we were able to track down their headquarters.
With the testimony of an informant called Slayman...
But I'll beat them every time!
I swear that I'll protect you for as long as I live.
Every time extremists somewhere are after me...
...you may be put in danger again.


I'm going to start learning self-defense and how to handle a gun.
Kajim.
What a wonder-ful woman you are!
Natasha!
I'm the woman who escaped from a guerilla militia, after all.
I'm not afraid of a little danger!
...will you accept these shoes from me?
This time...


I've finally been swept off my feet
...and a prince that gives me wonderful presents
Canopied beds, antique furniture...
A beautiful palace
We'll share all the joys and dangers
My sheikh and I
In the Arms of the Sheikh The End
I knew it. They're perfect for you.
Really?
Thank you...

Shojo Manhwa Scans

In the Arms of the Sheikh

Sophie Weston

shojomanhwascans.blogspot.com

Shojo Manhwa Scans

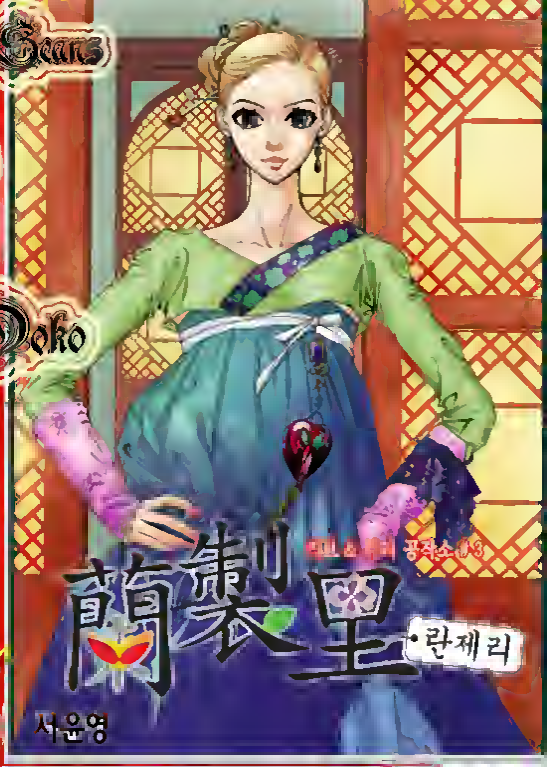
Presents

Shoukh to Doko made mo

Scans provider:

Ruby

Editor: Meriem


퓨전 로맨스 공작소 09
퓨전 로맨스 공작소 09
퓨전 로맨스 공작소 09